

To The Lords of Trade - June the 2. 1756

At Home

I do myself the honour to inform You that the Assembly of this Province has lately granted the Sum of £40,000 Currency for His Majesty's Service, to be laid out & applied in the following manner, £15,000 in Constructing a Fort or Forts just beyond our Western Settlements & in paying cloathing & victualing 200 Men that are to be raised to garrison the Same & to patroll on the Frontiers. £3000 in Presents or otherwise to engage the Assistance, & cultivate the Friendship of the Southern Indians in case either of the Neighbouring Colonies shall think proper to send Commissioners in Conjunction with some from this Province to treat with them. £1000 to be given as a Reward or Bounty to such as shall act offensively against our Indian Enemies & produce their Scalps in testimony of their having so done. And the Remaining £25000 in carrying on any Expedition that shall be undertaken by this Province for His Majesty's Service in conjunction with the Governments of Virg. Pens. & North Carolina. The last mentioned Sum is made payable to the Orders of the Officer who shall command on any such Expedition but as the Troops that have been raised in North Carolina are all transported to New York & the Pensilvanians hitherto continue averse to granting any farther Supplies it will remain in our Treasury till the Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America to whom I have writ thereon shall signify his pleasure concerning the Disposal of it. The Number of Men that are allowed for the immediate Protection of our own Frontiers will I believe be raised in a few Days, when I propose to proceed to the Western Parts of the Province, to give the necessary Orders for constructing the Forts & for putting that part of the Country in a better Posture of Defence. Some of our Back Inhabitants who lately advanced about 40 Miles beyond Fort Cumberland fell in with some Parties of the Enemy & returned with some Scalps, indeed they lost some Men but so considerable Rewards are now given to such Adventurers or Volunteers in all these Colonies I hope the Love of Money if no other Motive will incite many to follow this Example, & thereby make the Indians more cautious how they venture down to injure the Inhabitants. I have not heard that any of them have been lately discovered on this Side Fort Cumberland nor do I learn that any Mischief has been lately done by them on the Frontiers of either of the Neighbouring Colonies